

**CARILION**

Family Medicine

August 16, 2001

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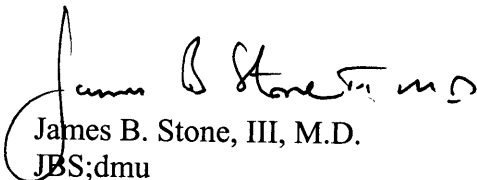
RE: FDA Anesthetic and Life-Support Drugs Advisory Committee Meeting, September 13/14, 2001

Dear Ms. Topper:

It has been brought to my attention that, at the Advisory Committee meeting cited above on September 13/14, 2001, an effort will be made by the FDA to restrict prescriptions of narcotics to pain specialists. This action presumably is being undertaken to prevent the misprescribing of narcotics by physicians other than pain specialists. The effect of such restriction will create a funnel and bottleneck that will simply overwhelm the system of health care delivery for pain management. Simply put, there are not enough "pain specialists" to provide this care. The bottleneck and the denial of pain relief will create a circumstance that is far worse than whatever misprescribing that may currently exist. In this case the treatment surely is worse than the disease.

In summary, there are many different types of health practitioners that can provide adequate care without restricting this service to "pain specialists".

Yours truly

  
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